GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:74
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2003
OPERATION SARP VINASH
CHANDRA NATH SINGH;V. SAROJA

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the terrorists had infiltrated several kilometers deep into Surankot area in J&K and built up camps, bunkers etc. in Hillkaka area of Peer Panjhal Hills and were controlling some areas for the last four years;

(b) if so, the reasons for terrorists activities remaining undetected during the last four years;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) whether the armed forces have launched operation Sarp Vinash in J&K to flush them out;

(f) if so, the extent to which the operation `Sarp Vinash` has been successful in destroying camps, bunkers etc. and the terrorists killed, arrested and number of arms seized;

(g) the number of Jawans killed/injured during the operation; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government to check such incidents of cross border terrorism in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (h): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (h) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 74 FOR 24.7.2003

Counter terrorist operations based on intelligence inputs, have been carried out periodically during the last four years in Hilkaka area of Jammu & Kashmir to neutralise terrorists operating in this area. Operation Sarp Vinash is one of such operations. Hence, the question of instituting an inquiry does not arise.

2. The terrorists often exploit remote and rugged areas like Hilkaka for establishing hideouts and caches for weapons and stores. In such areas, it is neither logistically feasible nor operationally effective to establish a permanent counter insurgency grid.

3. Under Operation Sarp Vinash, the troops were moved in the last week of March 2003 and the operation in the area of Hilkaka was launched on 21st April 2003. The operation resulted in the elimination of sixty five terrorists and arrest of three, busting of 119 hideouts and capture of 79 major weapons and large quantities of war like stores. During the operations, five army personnel were killed and five were wounded. Details about the killing of all the terrorists by the Army were reported to the nearest police stations and FIRs were lodged.

4. Adequate military measures have been taken to intercept and eliminate terrorist groups attempting to infiltrate in J&K. The counter measures include surveillance of all known routes of infiltration, including deployment of unattended ground sensors, construction of fence along the LoC and a multi-tiered deployment of troops. The counter infiltration posture is constantly being reviewed based on intelligence inputs.